

# Standards of Public Land Health

## Evaluation of 63055 BLACKWATER CANYON Allotment

### [ 01/19/2010 ]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 63055 BLACKWATER CANYON. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
63055-IDSU-A117							N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for public land on the Blackwater Canyon allotment, 63055. Ten of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic functions and 13 assessed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with quantitative information gathered from previous data collected at the trend study plot location within the allotment was utilized to make rangeland health determinations. Quantitative evaluations are performed by the Roswell field Office interdisciplinary teams, which include some or all of the following: ground and vegetative cover and composition, production, frequency and ecological condition. The collections which were initiated in the late 1970's/early 1980's are scheduled and conducted approximately every 5 years. This allotment is in the "C" (Custodial) category.

This allotment contains 1,146 acres of public land. The study is located on a Very Shallow CP-4 ecological site. All of the indicators were rated as "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" degree of departure from the ecological site description. There are no riparian areas on the public land in this allotment.

**Recommendations:** With all of the indicators falling in the "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standard for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet						
SITE 63055-IDSU-A117						
Legal Land Desc	SESE 6 0100S 0190E Meridian 23		Acreage		1146	
Ecosite	070DY158NM VERY SHALLOW CP-4		Photo Taken		Y	
Watershed	13060008110 DEADMAN					
Observers	REESE & TRAUTNER		Observation Date		01/19/2010	
County Soil Survey	NM632 LINCOLN		Soil Var/Taxad			
Soil Map Unit	017		Soil Taxon Name		ECTOR	
Texture Class	NM632 CB-L		Soil Phase		ECTOR- ROC	
Texture Modifier	NM632 VERY COBBLY LOAM					
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation			Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation			
NOAA Annual Precipitation			NOAA Growing Season Precipitation			
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation			NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation			
Disturbances and Animal Use:						
<b>Part 2. Attributes and Indicators</b>						
		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:	Few on hills, but in normal range					
S H	Water Flow Patterns					X
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes					X
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground					X

Comments:	125, rocky with good vegetation					
S H	Gullies				X	
Comments:	large gully south of study location, most look okay					
S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:	Not present					
H	Litter Movement				X	
Comments:	Some areas it is collecting around objects.					
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:	soil quick to break down					
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation				X	
Comments:	slight loss due to hilly country, soil fine at base.					
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff				X	
Comments:						
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups				X	
Comments:	cholla present, missing some key grass species					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:	Plants look good, some cactus loss (disease)					
H B	Litter Amount				X	
Comments:						
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:						
B	Invasive Plants				X	
Comments:	Cholla, cactus species scattered.					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X

Comments:	Porcupine, muledeer habitat - good forbes & draws					
B	Wildlife Populations				X	
Comments:	mule deer noted					
B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					

### Part 3. Summary

A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.

Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	3	7
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	6	5
B	Biotic	0	0	0	6	5

B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the *Does not Meet* column, Moderate becomes *May Need More Info*, and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the *Meets* columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.

Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets
Soil		0	0	10
Hydrologic		0	0	11
Biotic		0	0	11

Site Notes: Species noted at this location: grama grass species, cholla, bear grass, cactus species, juniper, snakeweed,

Saw very little livestock use, saw sheep in the area. Overall, the allotment looks good.

# **Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 63055 BLACKWATER CANYON**

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland Sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, Including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on these assessments, it is my determination that public land within Blackwater Canyon, allotment #63055, meets the (1) Upland Sites standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including Native, Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman  
Acting Assistant Field Manager

03/18/2010  
Date